

the **Gateway**

USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003

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News Brief

Change of command

Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey will relinquish command of the 435th Air Base Wing to Col. Kurtis D. Lohide in a ceremony at Hangar One on Ramstein Air Base at 2 p.m. June 16.

Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte, Vice Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, will preside.

Colonel Lohide presently serves as commander of the 99th Mission Support Group, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Free bowling

In the spirit of Combat Wingman and "Airmen taking care of Airmen", the 469th Air Base Group Services Flight offers free bowling until the Rocket Bowling Center closes June 25.

Bowling is free to all U.S. ID cardholders. Hours of operation are: noon to 8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; noon to 10 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Call 330-7219 for more details.

Office closure

The Rhein-Main Education Center closed May 27.

Tuition assistance requests will be processed by appointment only. Contact Tech. Sgt. Andre Dean for more information.

Most other education services are available at Ramstein or local Army education centers.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers

Coming of AGE

Senior Airman Thomas Seifried, deployed to Rhein-Main from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 171st Air Refueling Wing at Pittsburgh International Airport, prepares a flood light for transport to Spangdahlem Air Base Tuesday. Tech. Sgt. Jim Lema, leads a team of four Airmen from the 171st ARW who will continue to transition aerospace ground equipment as the flying mission at Rhein-Main comes to an end.

101 Critical Days of Summer:

One loss is too many

By Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong
Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – Memorial Day weekend marked the beginning of the "101 Critical Days of Summer." Statistically this period, which ends after Labor Day weekend, is a time of increased risk for mishaps and fatal injuries.

Each summer, U.S. Air Forces in Europe members are needlessly injured. In worst-case scenarios, family

members and friends are left to mourn the death of a loved one.

During the 101 Critical Days of Summer last year, USAFE experienced one fatal mishap – an off-duty private motor vehicle accident. Although this was a significant decrease from previous summers, the loss of a single life is unacceptable. Such losses affect the community deeply and personally; family members and friends are forced to face the irrevocable end of an

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AF finalizes new utility uniform

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Blue and green tiger stripes are out; the digitized pattern with subdued green, tan, blue and gray is in.

After reviewing more than 150,000 bits of feedback throughout the initial seven-month wear test of the proposed utility uniform, Air Force leaders recently decided to eliminate the original color scheme and conduct a limited field test of the new pattern.

Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June.

"The sole purpose of the test will be to see if we can add any features to the uniform to make it a better uniform in the field and to determine if the new colors (and) pattern provide camouflage protection they need in the field," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Airmen who participated in the initial wear test stopped wearing the more vibrant blue-green uniform March 1.

The original wear test involved more than 700 Airmen at 32 bases



The new uniforms should be available for purchase in fiscal year 2007.

worldwide who kept detailed daily logs annotating likes, dislikes and wash-and-wear problems. They also completed three surveys.

"Throughout the test, Air Force leaders actively solicited feedback from testers and observers alike to ensure this uniform developed into one that fit the needs of today's Airmen," Sergeant Athnos said. "There were several avenues for feedback, ensuring that the (Air Force) chief of staff had realistic facts when making the final decision on the uniform," she said.

Those avenues included a survey sent to 45,000 Airmen, a Web site and direct e-mail to the uniform board.

"Some comments were positive, some were negative — all of



Air Force officials recently released photos of the latest version of the proposed Air Force utility uniform. Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., this month.

them were provided directly to the chief of staff," Sergeant Athnos said.

The uniform is scheduled to be procured in mid-2005, officials said. Airmen can expect to purchase the uniform sometime in fiscal year 2007. The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years.

DUI/DWI Tracker

Days without DUIs (As of Tuesday)

469th Air Base Group

232 days

726th Air Mobility Squadron

115 days

64th Replacement Company

380 days

Tenant Units

164 days

Others

307 days

The 469th ABG Top IV provides a

fund at the main gate for permanent party personnel who take a taxi back to the base instead of driving while intoxicated.

The money used must be reimbursed the next duty day.



Wingman Sports Day



(Above) Maj. Kevin Wilkinson, 469th Air Base Group Legal Office, applies a late tag to First Sgt. Stanley Abney, 64th Replacement Company, as Tech. Sgt. Chris Kammermeier, 469th ABG Fire Department, looks on during the Team Rhein-Main officer's vs. Top 3 softball clash. The Top 3 won 14-4. (Right) Col. Brad Denison, 469th ABG commander, lets fly during the football relay event. (Left) Master Sgt. Fred Miller, 469th ABG Civil Engineer Flight, hops over teammate Master Sgt. John Smith, 469th ABG Fire Department, during the leap frog race.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers

(Above) Contestants hobble to the finish line in the 3-legged race. (Left) Members of the 469th ABG Fire Department used brute strength and a coordinated effort to defeat all challengers in the tug of war.



And the winners are:

Treasure hunt – Staff Sgts. Darren Plogger and Brent Watkins, 469th ABG FD
Egg toss – Senior Airman Jennifer Robbins and Airman 1st Class Kayla Gray, 2nd Air Postal Squadron, Det. 1
3-legged race – Spc. Renaldo Flanders and Pfc. Timothy Sanders, 64th RC
Leap frog race – 469th ABG CE (Maj. Shawn Moore; Master Sgt. Fred Miller; Master Sgt. John Smith and Tech. Sgt. Dave Gallagher)
Wally ball – 469th ABG Communications Flight (Tech. Sgt. Brian McHugh; Tech. Sgt. Gary Thacker and Staff Sgt. Trey Walker)
3-point shootout – Staff Sgt. Steven Gregorek and Senior Airman Rodolfo Pacheco, 469th ABG FD
Tug of war – 469th ABG FD (Tech. Sgt. Chris Kammermeier; Tech. Sgt. Clifton Garner; Staff Sgt. Harley McCurter; Sergeant Watkins and Airman 1st Class Gabriel Villanueva)
Football relay – Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers and Staff Sgt. Timothy Hall, 469th ABG
Manikin drag – 469th ABG FD (Sergeants Kammermeier, McCurter and Watkins and Airmen Pacheco and Villanueva)
Softball longest hit – Master Sgt. Guy Wells and Sergeant Walker, 469th ABG CS

Command commits to provide quality services

By Col. Dave Howe

U. S. Air Forces In Europe Mission
Support Deputy Director

You may have read a recent Stars and Stripes letter to the editor discussing cutbacks of important Morale, Welfare and Recreation services. Let me start off by saying we couldn't agree more with the reader about the vital role Services plays in building our military communities, boosting morale, and providing welfare and recreation for our military members, civilians, and their families. Wrapped into the letter, however, were misinformation and sensationalism on the extent and intent of the financial review of specific Services programs. Here are the facts:

We have 189 "businesses" across USAFE that provide services. Most of these "businesses" provide valuable services and make a profit in spite of drastically increased labor costs. Any profit these Services programs make gets plowed right back into services for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and their families! Fourteen of our 189 "businesses" have been identified for review due to high labor costs, low customer support or poor management. We are reviewing these specific activities to ensure that we use your money in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

These 14 "businesses" lost just over

\$1,000,000 during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2005 (1 October 2004-31 March 2005). Twelve of those 14 also lost money in Fiscal Year 2004. That's money that comes straight from our people and their families. These 14 "businesses" were given the opportunity to provide plans to put their activities back on a solid financial footing but have been unable to accomplish that goal.

However, let me make it abundantly clear these cuts are not just about "the bottom line." A significant number of our "businesses" will never make money because the customer base is too small to make a profit, particularly at our

geographically separated units. In many cases we will absorb those losses, in order to retain necessary services.

But where the services provided are not critical we must take logical action now or we'll be forced to take catastrophic action later.

Let me address several of the specific issues raised in the letter to the editor.

There is no plan or proposal to close any USAFE youth centers. We have community and youth centers all over Europe that provide a tremendous service to our communities while remaining financially solvent, ensuring we can continue to provide these activities to our communities in the future.

Many of us have our favorite base

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USAFE
SERVICES
Combat Support & Community Service

The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.

The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.

If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.

Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.

The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf. If you have any questions, call Public Affairs.



Col. Bradley Denison
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

330-7779

the **Gateway**

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*The deadline for the June 17
edition of the Gateway is
4 p.m. June 9.*

Warriors of the Week



Staff Sgt. Richard Grybos

Deployed from: 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard

Time in the Air Force: 14 years

Time at Rhein-Main: 15 days

Duty Title: PERSCO team member

Hometown: Baltimore, Md.

Hobbies: Sports and photography.

What has been your best Air Force experience?
Active duty tour at Torrejon Air Base, Spain.

469th Air Base Group Deployed PERSCO Team



Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Kiessling

Deployed from: 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard

Time in the Air Force: 15 years

Time at Rhein-Main: 15 days

Duty Title: PERSCO team chief

Hometown: Baltimore, Md.

Hobbies: Restoring a 19th century farm.

What has been your best Air Force experience?
Being assigned to the National Guard Bureau.

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eating establishments. Not all of them are profitable, and, therefore, take away resources from other Services facilities. For example, one pizza restaurant in the command lost \$38,000 in the first six months of Fiscal Year 2005. This loss simply cannot be tolerated when there are more than 15 other eateries at this particular base.

Another comment in the letter suggested the value added tax program might be in jeopardy. Quite the contrary — USAFE recently took the initiative to lower the costs of the forms for the vast majority of our population in order to make the program more accessible to our community at large.

The writer went on to sensationalize the issue by writing “Picture a military community without a community center, bowling center, Outdoor Rec, Youth Center...” To the contrary, I ask the reader to imagine a military community that not only provides these services but does so in a profitable manner or incurs minimal losses so money is generated to improve established services, facilities and equipment. It isn’t a question of how many bowling centers, community centers, or eateries a base has, the issue is, how many can the community afford to support well.

Thank you for this opportunity to clear the air. We stand committed in USAFE to providing quality services to our people and to insuring these services are managed effectively and efficiently — so that we ALL benefit!

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enriching and priceless relationship.

Vehicle mishaps are the leading cause of accidental deaths during this timeframe. The Air Force as a whole experienced 32 fatalities last summer. Of these, 24 involved private motor vehicles. Sadly, investigation and analysis of these events reveals a very tragic aspect — nearly all of them could have been prevented. Controls such as the driver getting the proper rest, reducing their driving speed and refraining from alcohol were either not considered or not applied.

No one is immune to mishaps or the distractions that often precede them. We are all susceptible whether on the job, at home or while traveling. As we enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer, I challenge you to bring your courage and apply appropriate Operational Risk Management to everything you do.

Every USAFE member is valuable, and by taking care of ourselves and our wingman, we can make this summer one that’s fun and safe.





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers

Snow cone

Dave Smith, 469th Air Base Group first baseman, barely holds on to the ball for an out in action against the 726th Air Mobility Squadron "A" team in the final of the Rhein-Main pre-season softball tournament Tuesday. The 726th AMS "A" squad defeated the 469th ABG 19-9 in six innings. The regular season began Wednesday and will run through the first week in July. Nine teams will battle it out for the final intramural softball title in the history of Rhein-Main.

Sports briefs

Volleyball champs

The 469th Air Base Group Communications Flight volleyball team made it five straight titles as it captured the Rhein-Main Intramural Volleyball title by defeating the 726th Air Mobility Squadron "B" team 23-25, 25-10 and 15-13 May 19 at the fitness center.

Members of the championship team include: **Larry Bright; Emmanuel Calixte; Melissa Daniels; Nolan Diestro; Brian McHugh; Dustin Ruland; Gene Steele; Gary Thacker; Jonathan Walker and Trey Walker.**

Members of the runner-up squad include: **Kelsey Backes; James Baggett; Jon Bakke; Gerard Garcia; Frank Gozukizil; Christopher May; Brent Nelson; Larry Smith; Dale Teeter and Kevin White.**

Softball results

Following are results from the opening night of the intramural softball season Wednesday:

- | | |
|--|------|
| ■ 726 AMS "A" defeated Lufthansa | 17-5 |
| ■ ETC defeated 64th RC | 11-1 |
| ■ 726 AMS "B" defeated Security Forces | 14-7 |

FRAPORT run

The 4th Annual FRAPORT Run is scheduled for 7 p.m. June 10 at the InterCity Hotel.

Runners can choose from a 5K or 10K course. Cost is 10 euro and all the proceeds go to charity.

The run is open to all full-time employees at Rhein-Main.

There will be free brauts and beverages after the race.

Several prizes will be given out during the event and all finishers have the chance to win the super prize – a new car.

A raffle will also take place with prizes such as airline tickets. Registration forms are available at the 469th ABG Public Affairs Office in Bldg. 347.

Father's Day run

The 469th Air Base Group Services Flight sponsors a 5K Father's Day Run at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in Gateway Gardens.

Call 330-7151 for more information.

Run in the sun

The Tony Bass Fitness Center sponsors a 10K Run in the Sun starting at 9 a.m. June 11 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. The cost is \$15 per runner and includes a t-shirt.

Registration is from 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. the day of the race or in advance at any Team 221st sports and fitness center (Wiesbaden, Dexheim or McCully Barracks).

Call 337-5541 for more information.

Youth soccer

A youth soccer camp is set for June 20-24 for ages 6-18. Cost is \$10 per child and there are 30 openings for the morning session and 30 for the afternoon session.

Each participant will receive a t-shirt, completion certificate and evaluation at the end of the camp.

Call 330-7125 for more details or to sign up.

Juneteenth

The African American Heritage Club at Rhein-Main sponsors a Juneteenth Celebration from noon to 9 p.m. June 11 at the base recreation area just across A-5 from the front gate.

The celebration is open to all members of Team Rhein-Main and includes a barbecue, bouncy castle, cards and dominoes tournaments, a hair-braiding booth, step show, volleyball and much more.

Lunch box

The "Lunch Box" is back at the base commissary. The box includes a sandwich, chips, drink and snack for \$3.75.

Lunch is sold from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in front of the commissary.

CAIB cancelled

The Community Action Intervention Board or "CAIB" Meeting scheduled for Tuesdays has been cancelled.

For more information, call the family support center at 330-7992.

WIC closure

The Women, Infants & Children Program at Rhein-Main is set to close July 20.

Wellness counselors are currently calling participants to set up final appointments.

Chapel schedule

The following worship opportunities are offered by the Rhein-Main Chapel:

■ Catholic worship:

Sunday Mass – 9 a.m. every Sunday.

Chapel fellowship – 10 a.m.

CCD – 10:30 a.m.

■ Protestant worship:

Sunday School – 9 a.m.

Chapel fellowship – 10 a.m.

Worship and Kids Own Church take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



ments. Counselors can prepared drafts up to three months in advance.

Participants are reminded if they need blood work done for WIC the last day to have blood work done at the base clinic is June 30. The results are good for one year.

Miramar trip

The FSC sponsors a free trip to the Mannheim Miramar Water Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 14.

Transportation and entrance fee are paid for by the FSC. Participants should bring enough euro for lunch, snacks and other purchases. Also, they should bring towels, bathing suits and other swim wear.

All children 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or an adult with a medical power of attorney.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

Home buying tips

Anyone interested in buying a home can call the FSC and set up a private consultation. Prospective homeowners can get tips on getting ready for a home purchase, finding the right home at the right price, financing options and more.

Call 330-7992 for more information.

Commissary jobs

The commissary has part time openings, 24 hours a week, for students.

Apply at www.chrma.hquusareur.army.mil.

School notes

The last day of school for H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden is June 16.

The school's awards assembly is set for 9 a.m. Wednesday in the Taunus Theater in the Hainerberg Shopping Complex. Graduation is June 12.

The Halvorsen-Tunner Elementary Middle School awards assembly is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday and the school-wide Volksmarch starts at 10 a.m. June 10.

New entry

Effectively immediately, there is a new entrance to Charlie's Gifts in the

Movies at Rhein-Main

Tonight - "XXX: State of the Union," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Saturday - "Robots," (PG), 5 p.m. and "Guess Who," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - "Miss Congeniality: Armed and Fabulous," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Tuesday - "Madagascar," (PG), 7 p.m.

Wednesday - "Madagascar," (PG), 7 p.m.

June 10 - "Sin City," (R), 7 p.m. and "Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith," (PG-13), 10 p.m.

June 11 - "Beauty Shop," (PG-13), 5 p.m., and "Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at

www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp

Community Connection, Bldg. 349. Customers should now use the door on the south-west side of building, closest to the Deutsche Post mailbox.

Bob's Plaques and G's Photo are closed for business and the buildings other entrances are locked.

Walking tour

The famous FSC walking tour of Frankfurt is set for 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 16.

The tour, beginning at the shoppette parking lot, covers the use of public transportation and a brief history of Frankfurt. Participants should wear civilian clothes and walking shoes and it's recommended to bring at least 25 euros for lunch.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

Spangdahlem trip

The FSC sponsors a tour of Spangdahlem Air Base from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 22 for people PCSing there.

The FSC will reimburse for child care for those who require it at a rate of \$3 per hour for one child or a maximum of \$5 for a family.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

End of an era in education

Halvorsen-Tunner closes after 54 years of service to Rhein-Main

By Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers
Public Affairs

Although it's only carried its historic name since 1986, the school will go down in history as Halvorsen-Tunner Elementary and Middle School.

Closure ceremonies set for Thursday at the school will ensure the bastion of education that has touched thousands of Air Force family members during the past 54 years will go out in style.

Named Halvorsen-Tunner in 1986 to honor Berlin Airlift heroes 1st Lt. Gail Halvorsen, a.k.a. "The Candy Bomber," and Maj. Gen. William H. Tunner, 1st Airlift Task Force commander, the school has been in business since the early 1950s.

Although a major portion of the current school building dates to 1951, children of Rhein-Main Airmen have been educated since 1947 in various locations. In the early years, children had to travel to downtown Frankfurt for an

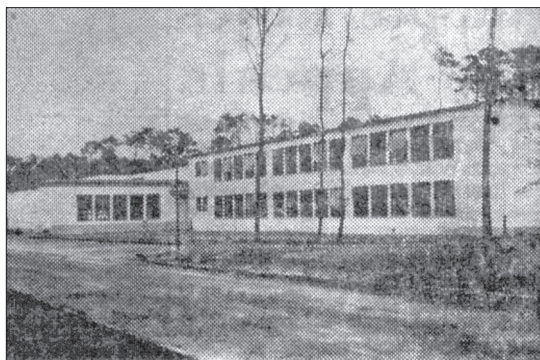


Photo courtesy of Stars and Stripes archives

Then...

The Rhein-Main Elementary and Middle School was built in 1951 in Gateway Gardens. Notice the large windows, which were changed out in the 1970s to conserve energy.

And now...

The school's name was changed to Halvorsen-Tunner Elementary and Middle School in 1986 to honor heroes of the Berlin Airlift.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers



Photo courtesy of Stars and Stripes archives

In 1949 this villa in Neu-Isenburg was converted into a school for the children of Rhein-Main. The students had to take a bus to the Buchschlag Officers' Club for lunch.

education. In 1949 a provisional school was established in a Neu-Isenburg villa, with a kindergarten facility located across the street.

In 1951 the Rhein-Main Elementary and Middle School was finished and 286 children in grades Kindergarten - 6th were taught by 11 teachers, including two German teachers, Mrs. Helbing and Mr. Durst, who familiarized students with the German culture and language.

Regina Green, who started as a host nation teacher at Rhein-Main in 1976, recalls the days when German teachers could take students on a field trip once a

week so the students could apply what they learned in the classroom. The students learned to read maps, buy public transportation tickets and how to get around Frankfurt by bus, streetcar, underground and S-Bahn.

School officials have planned a Farewell Assembly for 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the school. The assembly includes guest speakers and photo presentations, followed by the retiring of the colors from in front of the school.

(David Brown, Regina Green and Anthony Jackson contributed to this article.)

The Final Chapter

This section is devoted to the history and legacy of Rhein-Main and how this storied installation will close with grace and dignity. Look for stories on the history of the base, units stationed here and how the closure of facilities affect the mission. Rhein-Main, the "Final Chapter".

